

California Water Plan

DeAnn- Here is a summary of what is in the California Water Plan related to Indian Tribes. I didn't see anything worth commenting on, but there seem to be some gaps in the local government area. The only other area I thought you should look at is the recommendations on environmental justice (pg. 6-3, 6-7).

Native American Tribes

Tribes are referenced on pages 2-5, 2-10, 6-3, and 6-9. Chapter Two provides some background on the Tribes and their history with the Federal Government on water policy. Later in that Chapter there is a section on Tribal Water Rights which indicates that costly litigation or negotiation are the way of resolving Indian water disputes which often can take decades to resolve.

In Chapter 6 there are recommendations, one of which indicates under the state role that the state should “engage Native Americans at all stages of the state’s water planning process to assess the surface and groundwater demands and quality to support tribal fishing rights and cultural practices.”

Later in Chapter 6 there is also a recommendation that the state should “expand the role of Native American participation in the water planning process, provide assistance for their participation and with the federal government jointly assess water demands and quality, ensure clean and safe potable water, fund projects to improve tribal water supplies, encourage regional resource planning.” (summarized)

None of these recommendations seem to be negative towards counties, however, there is little mention of Indian Tribe cooperation in the land use section of the report, or in the local government planning sections.